

DR. JOHN L. MARSHALL BIOGRAPHY

Every area of endeavor has its superstars, and sports medicine is no exception. He was the personal physician of Dr. J (Julius Erving), Willie Randolph, Rosie Casals, Pam Shriver, Martina Navratilova, Earl “the Pearl” Monroe, Mary Carillo. He operated on Billie Jean King’s knee enabling her to set a Wimbledon record for most wins by one individual. He returned Larry Csonka to pro-football after a knee injury. And would you believe one of his biggest winners was Hoist the Flag, both orthopedic ally and on the track?

John L. Marshall, D. V. M., M. D. (1936-1980), Pelham resident since 1971, died in a small plane crash en route to the Lake Placid Winter Olympics—an untimely, tragic loss to the orthopedic and sports medicine community. Born in Schenectady, New York, John attended Scotia High School and graduated from Vermont Academy, Cornell University (1956) and Cornell University of Veterinary Medicine (1960). After working with William Reed, D. V. M. with thoroughbred race horses in Florida, Saratoga, Belmont and Kentucky, he graduated from Albany Medical College (1965) following an internship at Tufts-New England Medical Center and a Fellowship and Residency at Hospital for Special Surgery (1966-1971)—John became Chief of the Sports Medicine Service there. His professional accomplishments included: Director of Laboratory for Comparative Orthopedic and Experimental Surgery, Associate Scientist in the Department of Research at Hospital for Special Surgery, Fellow of American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery, American College of Surgeons, New York Academy of Medicine, member of Orthopedic Research Society and American College of Sports Medicine. He was Associate Professor of Surgery (Orthopedic) at Cornell University Medical College and Clinical Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Cornell Medical College, Associate Attending Orthopedic Surgeon at Hospital for Special Services, and Founder & Executive Director of the National Sports Medicine Research & Education Foundation (established 1978 “to make available the same type of treatment for non-professional active Americans that we provide for pro-athletes”). He was team physician for the New York Giants and the Orthopedic Consultant to the New Jersey Nets, the New York City Public School Athletic League, the United States Olympic Ski Team, and the Cornell University Athletic Department.

Dr. Marshall’s interest in Sports Medicine developed as an outgrowth of his own love for, and perpetual involvement in athletics, which was a very important and integral part of his own life to the very moment of his death. He was an avid athlete—football, basketball, boxing Golden

Gloves. He competed and played with his professional tennis player patients; he sailed in Bermuda races and New York Yacht Club races. He rode, trained and showed thoroughbred and gaited horses. He skied with his Olympians. He possessed a rare motivation, a spirit, energy, and enthusiasm for work and an extra-curricular life that impressed all who met him. His particular interest and expertise involved his study of the anterior cruciate ligament of the knee, having treated many animals disabled by this injury. He dedicated a part of his life to studying the anatomy and function of the ACL and the disability created by its rupture in both animals and man.

John, for all of his education, expertise and accomplishments was basically a kid who never grew up! He had that smile on his face and that gleam in his eye that said, "Life is fun, try, do it." In 1971, he established the Sports Medicine Clinic at H. S. S. for 45,000 competitors in the New York City Public School System, a free clinic for athletes who competed in contact sports and performed surgery at no cost to families. He helped guide the establishment of similar clinics at four other hospitals. How then, could he not get involved in Pelham athletics? He was on the field as a soccer coach, on the sidelines at football games, tennis matches, hockey games and Little League games. He jogged the streets, discussing knee problems. He loved this Town, the schools, the people and most of all, the kids. No question was too unimportant, no phone call too annoying. He went out of his way to see anyone, arrange appointments for everyone, for young or old.

John was a family man, and his lust for life, his enthusiasm for sports, his work ethic and respect and love lives on in his children—now young adults. Laurie, married to Sgt. James Lauria, lives in Pelham. She played tennis, softball and ran track at Pelham. She still does all three sports and has two children—John (for his grandfather) and Emma. She is also a skier, skater and coach.

John was an All Star Hockey Player at PMHS, an All League, All County Soccer Player and Baseball Player. He is Vice-President of the Hogan Group, a Private Developer in Miami, Florida. He plays on two hockey teams in Florida (one on ice, one on roller blades) and is a Marathon runner.

Widow Jan co-founded the Pelham Youth Soccer League, coached soccer and tennis, and continues to play on two tennis teams and is a committed and obsessed walker!

The Recreation Commission established the Annual Dr. John L. Marshall Award "to honor a non-paid, non-staff volunteer Pelham citizen who gives, in the tradition of Dr. Marshall, time and energy through recreation, to the people of Pelham." It is difficult to pick just one each year. Pelham is a busy, growing, vital community, with good schools, excellent recreation programs and many concerned and dedicated volunteers who contribute unselfishly to making it such a nice place to live, raise children and enjoy an active retirement.